

BCHC Youth Activities' Policy

General Considerations:

- Youth participating in BCHC events must be members at the time of the event.**
- Helmets must be worn by all 17 and under youth any time they are mounted.
- Utilize teachers, 4-H leaders, church group leaders and others who have experience working with youth as teachers and/or chaperones.
- The nature of the youth activity determines the maximum number of youth participants. If riding on the trail, youth group size should not exceed 10. On the trail, there should be a minimum of 3 adult chaperones accompanying the youth group. In campground and other areas, the ratio of youth to chaperones should be a minimum of 4:1.
- If youth group is of mixed gender, always have chaperones of both genders present.
- Create a detailed schedule. Keep participants busy; don't allow too much "free time". Education topics may involve Leave No Trace, packing skills, basic care of horse/mule, care & maintenance of tack & equipment, etc. Select age appropriate topics and focus on safety.
- It is mandatory that members as defined in the Background Check Requirement Policy 1019-1 obtain a BCHC Youth Volunteer Program Card. To receive this card you must submit for the fingerprint and background check clearance. Contact the BCHC Custodian of Records (COR) by email for information. If you violate any part of this youth policy your card will be revoked. Sponsoring Unit will determine who pays for fingerprinting & background check.***

Background Check Approval Process:

Background checks will be considered approved if applicant meets the following criteria as determined by the BCHC-COR:

- Is not now on Megan's Law list
- Is not a registered Sex Offender
- Has not had a conviction for Domestic Violence in the last 5 years

Penal codes are attached.

Adult Participants: Chaperones and committee members shall conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.

1. Refrain from physical contact with youth. (Side hugs, High 5's & Fist Bumps are allowed.)
2. Do not consume alcohol or smoke during any specified youth activity.
3. Do not be alone with one youth.
4. Never leave a single youth attending BCHC events unsupervised.
5. Do not allow a young (9 and under) youth to be alone with an older (15 and up) youth. (Unless, of course, they are related.)
6. Use appropriate language. Refrain from using slanderous terms, profanity, suggestive comments, or harsh words. Be politically correct and be sensitive to gender/sexual orientation/ethnicity, etc.
7. Do not address youth with pet names such as "honey," "sweetie," "darling."
8. Address students with respect; do not talk down to minors.
9. Do not administer any medications by way of oral, injections, inhaler or smoke to yourself in the presence of a minor unless it is a health emergency.
10. Teach by example: Use "please" and "thank you", model good manners and be considerate of others.

Stock Considerations:

1. Stock being used by adult members must be experienced, calm and broke. (Don't bring young or new stock to youth events!)
2. It is highly recommended that stock being ridden by youth be provided by a pack station ("dude" horses).
3. If youth ride their own stock, it would be ideal to have a pre-trip stock event in an arena to assess the abilities of the horse and rider prior to a trip out on the trail.

Overnight Trips:

1. *3-4 same gender youths per tent. Keep age range as close as possible. Do not have a 9 year old sharing a tent with a 17 year old. (unless they are siblings)*
2. *If someone needs to use the restroom in the middle of the night, they need to wake up someone else in the tent. If there are only 3, they all need to get up and go to the restroom. If there are 4; then 2 can go and 2 can stay.*
3. *Designate gender specific tent areas; boys stay out of girls' area and vice-versa.*
4. *Youth participants should never be alone or unsupervised at BCHC events. (Youth should stay with a partner/group, remain inside camp boundary, walk to the restroom in two's/three's, etc...)*
5. *Adults are never to be alone with a minor.*
6. *Refrain from physical contact with youth. (side hugs, fist bumps, hi 5's ok!)*
7. *Adult chaperones should be in own tent/cot close to youth tents to provide supervision in the case of an incident during the night.*
8. *Be sure to have all medical information, insurance information, any required medications and treatment release forms available should you need them at any time. Keep the above information in a secure area.*
9. *Remind participants to practice LNT; for their safety and the sake of the wildlife; participants should not have any food items, perfume, candy, gum or scented lotions in their tents.*

10. *If in an area with no cell phone reception: It is strongly recommended that someone have a SPOT or SAT phone available during the youth event should you need to call help in the event of an emergency.*

Liability & Medical Release Forms:

Go to <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/> to find liability and medical release forms, as well as other related forms you may need in holding a youth event.

Original Policy APPROVED AT OCTOBER 13, 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APPROVED AMENDMENT AUGUST, 1, 2019 BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

AMENDED AND APPROVED AT OCTOBER 12, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

Any person with a conviction on file for the following Penal Codes will be excluded by BCHC from working with children:

- 187 Murder
- 207 Kidnapping for molestation
- 209 Kidnapping for rape
- 220 Assault
- 243.4 Sexual Battery
- 261 Rape or attempted rape
- 262 Rape
- 264.1 Aiding and abetting a rape
- 266 (h, i, j) Pimping or pandering a minor/Child Procurement
- 269 Aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14 years of age
- 272 Contributing to the delinquency of a minor with lewd or lascivious conduct
- 273a Child Endangerment (in past 5 years)*
- 273d Corporal Injury on a Child (in past 5 years)*
- 273d Child Abuse (in past 5 years)*
- 285 Incest
- 286 Sodomy
- 288 (2,.3,.4,.5, .7) Lewd or lascivious act with a minor
- 288 (a) Oral Copulation with a minor
- 289 Sexual penetrations by use of force
- 311.1 – 311.11 Child pornography laws
- 647.6 Annoying or molesting a child
- 653 (f,c) Solicitation to commit a sex crime